

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02353 241526Z

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FOR IEU, IPS (INFO IBS/PE); STATE FOR CU/EE; VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JOURNALIST IN BULGARIA

REF: IEU:MILLER-COFMAN OFF-INF OCT 9 B. SOFIA 2236

1. HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN BATAK, BULGARIA, HAS ASKED EMBASSY FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF J.A. MCGAHAN, AMERICAN JOURNALIST (FOR CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND OTHERS). HIS WRITINGS ABOUT BULGARIANS' "APRIL UPRISING" AGAINST OTTOMANS IN 1876 WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN GAINING WESTERN PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR BULGARIAN INDEPENDENCE, WHICH CAME IN 1878. SOFIA STREET IS NAMED FOR MCGAHAN.

2. BATAK IS SITE OF MAJOR ANTI-OTTOMAN ACTIVITIES IN 1876. MUSEUM WISHES ERECT BUST-MONUMENT TO MCGAHAN AS PART OF UPRISING CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION AND REQUESTS PHOTOGRAPHS "TO PORTRAY HIS APPEARANCE MORE TRULY."

3. IPS: PLEASE AIRMAIL WHATEVER PHOTOS (AND COPY NEGATIVES, IF POSSIBLE) OF MCGAHAN CAN BE FOUND; E.G. IN CHICAGO TRIBUNE ARCHIVES, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. CHARGE ID 32BU76-0027-IPS.

4. MCGAHAN'S ACTIVITIES IN CENTENNIAL YEAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE PROVIDE USEFUL ANGLE FOR LOCAL U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02353 241526Z

BICENTENNIAL PUBLICITY. WE WOULD EFINITELY WANT

UNDERWOOD ARTICLE (MENTIONED REF A) OR SIMILAR ARTICLE FOR "SPEKTUR," APPROPRIATE COVERAGE ON VOA BULGARIAN BROADCASTS. IF GRAPHIC MATERIAL AVAILABLE, RPO-PRODUCED EXHIBIT FOR EMBASSY WINDOWS ALSO DESIRED.

5. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON MCGAHAN OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED HEREIN. BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS UNION STATES IT HAS NOTHING. PERHAPS VOA BULGARIAN STAFFERS CAN PROVIDE LEADS. ONE SUBJECT BULGARIAN RESEARCHER BORIS PAVLOV MATEEV (REF B) PLANS STUDY IN U.S. IS MCGAHAN'S ACTIVITIES; PERHAPS HE WOULD PROVIDE LEADS TO MATERIALS OR MATERIALS THEMSELVES.

6. FOR IEU: SUGGEST IEU;MILLER COORDINATE THIS PROJECT. PLEASE ADVISE UNDERWOOD LETTER ENROUTE WITH SUGGESTIONS ON JOURNALISM EXCHANGE.
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